

For the Organ.
Temperance Sketches.

BY MEZQUE.

No. 1.

Introductory Remarks.

Time was, when, by a fiction of law, the right was conferred upon a favored few to traffic in ardent spirits, at the expense of human suffering and woe. But legislators have at last discovered what common sense always dictated—that if Dick Hardcase had a right to furnish the penitentiary and gallows with victims, Jack No-soul had an equal right to supply the asylum and almshouse with maniacs and paupers; and if these two individuals possessed such responsible rights, there were others who possessed it, in common with them. In short, they have discovered the true state of the case—namely, that if one man has the right to traffic in human agony, and scatter the seeds of suffering and sorrow broadcast upon the earth, (by whomsoever authorized,) all men have the same right. We say, legislators have at length discovered this truth, and in some States have acted upon it. Ohio, in her conventional capacity, asserted and subscribed to this doctrine. So far, so good; but who will assert that all efforts to preserve the peace and harmony of society, by legal means, should end here? The license system proved itself to be one of the most hypocritical, corrupt, base laws that ever found its way upon a statute-book. It was a moral Janus. With one face, it pretended to frown upon vice, and curb the depraved appetites of men; while, with the other it sanctioned and gave every encouragement to the commission of crime of every shade and degree, therefore defeating the very ends of its creation. But its own corruption proved its ruin. Like the cancer, it eat its own way out of the body politic. The end failed to sanctify the means. It had shed too much blood, starved out too many poor, filled too many prisons and pauper-houses, under the sanction of its corrupt provisions, to be longer tolerated. Mankind would rather suffer injury through violence, than by the sanction of an unjust law. The license law was therefore expunged from the statute book, and now what are we to have instead? Are we, in future, to be governed by the *rum influence*, without a prohibitory or restraining law upon the subject, or by law, without the *rum*? This is an important question, and one that must be decided this winter. That the people of Ohio voted down the license law, in order to give fuller scope to the work of destruction which was going on through the liquor traffic, none, we presume, will assert. What, then, I ask in all candor, was intended by that important step?

If it was intended to give room for the Maine Law, or some such prohibitory law, (and certainly the inference points in that direction,) how have the people's trust been betrayed! The suppression of the license law was followed with the most ungovernable and licentious use of the liberty of liquor trafficking that could be imagined. This was to be expected for a time; but it was fondly hoped that the Legislature would respond to the wishes of the people, as did the Convention from whom it derived its powers to act in the matter. But to what extent these hopes and expectations were justified, the result, thus far, has proven. For two whole years, or more, have the people of Ohio been suffering from the unresisted tide of liquor vending, for which this long interregnum has afforded such great facilities. And still we are told that we must leave the temperance question outside of politics! Politics! and what are they? O! we are told they relate to commer-

cial regulations—to internal improvements, banking, slavery, etc., but not to temperance matters—they belong to the moral code—they are to be promulgated by moral suasion, through the instrumentality of ministers and women! Wonderful philosophy! truly. Besides all this, say these philosophers, you have a temperance law, which, (though its constitutionality is to be doubted,) is sufficiently stringent, if made use of. "If made use of," is well put in. This contemptible compromise of the temperance cause with the whisky influence of Cincinnati, is a disgrace to Ohio.

A law to benefit a whole State, must be uniform: but this may have as many modifications as there are townships in the State; and therefore it is worse than no law at all, for when we have none at all upon the subject, we can with more assurance, ask for a good one. But this miserable, contemptible shadow of a temperance law, is not worth the paper it took to write it on. Much has been said and written upon the right of the Legislature to enact a prohibitory law. In the course of these papers we will discuss the question.

As we propose a series of papers upon the subject of temperance, we shall make our articles short. We propose to discuss the subject at some length; provided our articles meet with approbation on the part of those who have charge of the "Organ."

We feel deeply interested in this subject, and we are a witness, every day, of the sad state of affairs, in which the absence of a law upon the subject leaves us. I say the "absence of a law," for I do not regard the act of the Legislature of last winter, authorizing the trustees of townships to regulate the liquor traffic, in the light of a law. Trustees, everywhere, refuse to assume the responsibility thrown upon them. If we can have no better law than this we may just as well have none, for what is the use of being mocked with a law which is destitute of uniformity, and its penalties uncertain?

Having said this much, by way of introduction, we will close this article, and prepare ourself to open up a battery against rum castle, with such arguments as we think the nature of the case demands at our hands—and now, after wishing the "Organ" the most unbounded success, we will take our leave of the reader for this time.

LEWISBURGH, O., Aug. 7, 1853.

Sycamore Township.

A correspondent of the Commercial gives the following account of the state of feeling in Sycamore township:

"It perhaps would not be amiss with your consent, to let the people of Hamilton county know, through the columns of your valuable Daily, what the good people of Sycamore township are about. We have long been asleep, but I am happy to say we are now fairly and widely awake. It is well known that for a long time the calls from the democratic party have been faithfully responded to by triumphant majorities in favor of their tickets; and it will still be so if a clear ticket be presented—a ticket composed of democrat temperance men. And this feeling is not confined to the one party. The most influential men of both parties have declared their intention no longer to sacrifice principles to aggrandize party—no longer to vote for men because they are on the ticket though devoid of moral firmness and regardless of the demands of the people. In short there is a general rising up of the mass of the people throughout the township, with a determination to do their utmost to send men to the next Legislature who will reflect the will of their constituents by at least endeavoring to secure the passage of an 'Ohio Liquor Law,' con-

taining the fundamental principles of the 'Maine Liquor Law.'

"One instance to show the interest manifested on this question. In Reading a society has been formed and engrafted in their constitution is an article pledging every member to vote for no man at the coming election who is not an uncompromising enemy to the liquor traffic and who, if elected, would not aid in the passage of such a law as the above. Meetings are held every Monday evening at which the subject of a prohibitory law is being thoroughly discussed. Not an opponent of such a law can be found in our midst who will take the stand and oppose it from principle. We only wish the public to know that we will hereafter be trammelled by no party, but will vote at the coming election for men who will carry out the will of the people on this question—the all important, and I might say, the only important test question now before the voters of the State; for along side of this all others sink into comparative insignificance."

A CITIZEN OF SYCAMORE TOWNSHIP.

From the Christian Press.

Minnesota—The Maine Law.

The cause of temperance in this Territory is decidedly progressive.—It is probably known to the friends of the cause in the State, that we have once had a prohibitory law here modeled after the Maine Law, and also that it went into effect and was successfully carried out for several months, until Chief Justice Hayner, then newly appointed, among his first official acts, declared the law unconstitutional, because it had been referred to the people and by them sanctioned and declared.

But the friends of a prohibitory law were not easily discouraged. They were determined to have a law that would be constitutional in the eyes and faces of wine-loving Judges. Last winter the petition of 1857 inhabitants of the Territory went up to the legislature, praying them to pass a constitutional prohibitory law. A remonstrance to this, faithfully circulated in every grog shop and gambling saloon, could bring out but 388 names. But, notwithstanding this array, the legislature refused to pass any such measure, allowing, as the primary reason, that it would be carried into politics, and injuriously effect the position of parties. But Temperance men saw this trick, and determined to put the question at once into politics, and declared in a large meeting at St. Pauls, 500 to 2, that they would not vote for any man for office who was not the known and pledged friend of a prohibitory law on the subject of the liquor traffic.

On the 4th of the present month, a Territorial mass convention assembled in St. Paul, and after a full discussion, resolved to act in concert with themselves, either securing the nomination of the right men on the tickets of their respective parties, or preparing a separate ticket, on voting with the party which may nominate Temperance men, casting no scattering vote, and casting no vote except for known and reliable friends of a prohibitory law. And here we stand.—From this position we will not recede. We mean to remember this pledge at the fall election, and then to vote as we pray.

One great disadvantage under which we have heretofore labored, is now removed. With four papers published in the Territory, we have not had one to advocate the law, but now a new paper, the "North-western Democrat" has just been started at St. Anthony, which will be a decided Temperance paper, and will do good service in the cause this summer.

Write it down in capitals, WE WILL SUCCEED. We will shake hands with Michigan next winter.

A Bad Start and a Worse Outcome.

A young man in this city lately attempted shooting himself with a pistol, giving as a reason for doing so that he had no means of living. He had written to his friends for funds, but not receiving any, he determined on self-destruction. We know nothing of the individual, and only gathered the above particulars from some of the daily papers; but the case suggests some important considerations.

1. Why is it so many boys are suffered to grow up in our country, without a practical knowledge of the means of an honest livelihood? In other words, why are not boys, all boys, everywhere taught to work? Is there any disgrace in being able from early education, to earn an honest living by the labor of one's hands, whenever it may be necessary? Do not parents do an injury to their children, and to the community at large, by raising them and thrusting them out upon the world unprepared to earn a competent subsistence? Are their sons too good to work? Alas for the want of correct views on this subject, and of useful, honorable employment hundreds are led first to drinking and gambling houses, and then to disgrace and ruin.

2. In a country like this, where openings for industry and enterprise are so numerous, where every healthy man may do well if he will, why should men and especially young men complain of a want of the means of living? It is certainly not because there are no openings for them; but it is either because they are either too proud or lazy to work. That's it. A false education, connecting with false views of their own important selves, lead them to conclude that honest labor is *degrading*. Yes, degrading; though they will not often speak out thus, this is the feeling. To soil their pretty hands and dirty their fine unpaid-for clothes, is a sloop to which they cannot submit—their pride will not allow it; hence they are too often ready to resort to almost any course rather than go honestly to work. In all this there is a radical error, which in most cases may be traced to the influence of early education. The parent was, perhaps, some thirty-seven and a half cents better off than his neighbors, hence he, weak man, was led to suppose that his son was only suited for some profession, or, at the very lowest, to "go into some business," as it is usually termed—that is, to stand behind some counter, cut tape, and calico. And this, in the estimation of the over fond and delusive parent, is "more respectable" than the various handicraft pursuits of the country. How upon the face of the earth did it ever enter the heads of men that it was more respectable to stand by a counter than by a work-bench—to measure cloth than make the coat—to shave notes than to shave timber? How we cannot imagine.—Out upon such *ninnyism*, say we! Let our sons be taught that idleness is a disgrace, and that no man has a right to live upon the common stock without contributing his share to the support of the whole; and let each and every man "lay to" and do something useful to himself and others. If he cannot do this let him do that; but let him never be idle, but always usefully employed; then he will not be so anxious to hurry himself out of this world, bad as some pretend to think it is.

* * Three hundred groceries have been licensed in the neighborhood of the Crystal Palace.

* * There are but seventy-six persons in New Hampshire who cannot read and write.

* * A piece of wet saleratus, applied to the sting of a bee, wasp, or mosquito, will stop the pain immediately.